

ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 22, 1996

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, Georgia 30120, Phone (770) 606-8862

RUSSELL-LOWE HOME

Editors Note: This article was taken from the June 2, 1949 edition of The Weekly Tribune News. It was written by Thomas Spencer and titled "Ancient Lowe Home Has Exciting Story Behind It". Thanks to Sonny Roberts and Michael Garland for contributing this article.

"As the crow flies," the historic Russell-Lowe home is exactly four miles north of Cassville. It is on the road over which passed Wheeler's cavalry on May 18th of 1865, and over which passed all of the Federal army of the Ohio-when that army was marching on Cassville. The old home is nearly one hundred years old. A marking on one of the chimneys says "1856".

The two front rooms of this historic home are made of logs. It is one of those houses built to stay. One chimney is of brick, the other a thing of beauty, built of stone. In 1861 it was one of those fine country homes in which lived people at peace with God and the world. Early 1861 there were "rumors" of war, but not until April 12, 1861, did the people of Bartow County know that war was at hand. William Lowe and his wife Mahala were truly pioneers of Bartow County. They owned the Lowe plantation.

When the war broke, there were three Lowe boys, Judson, Whitfield, and Oliver

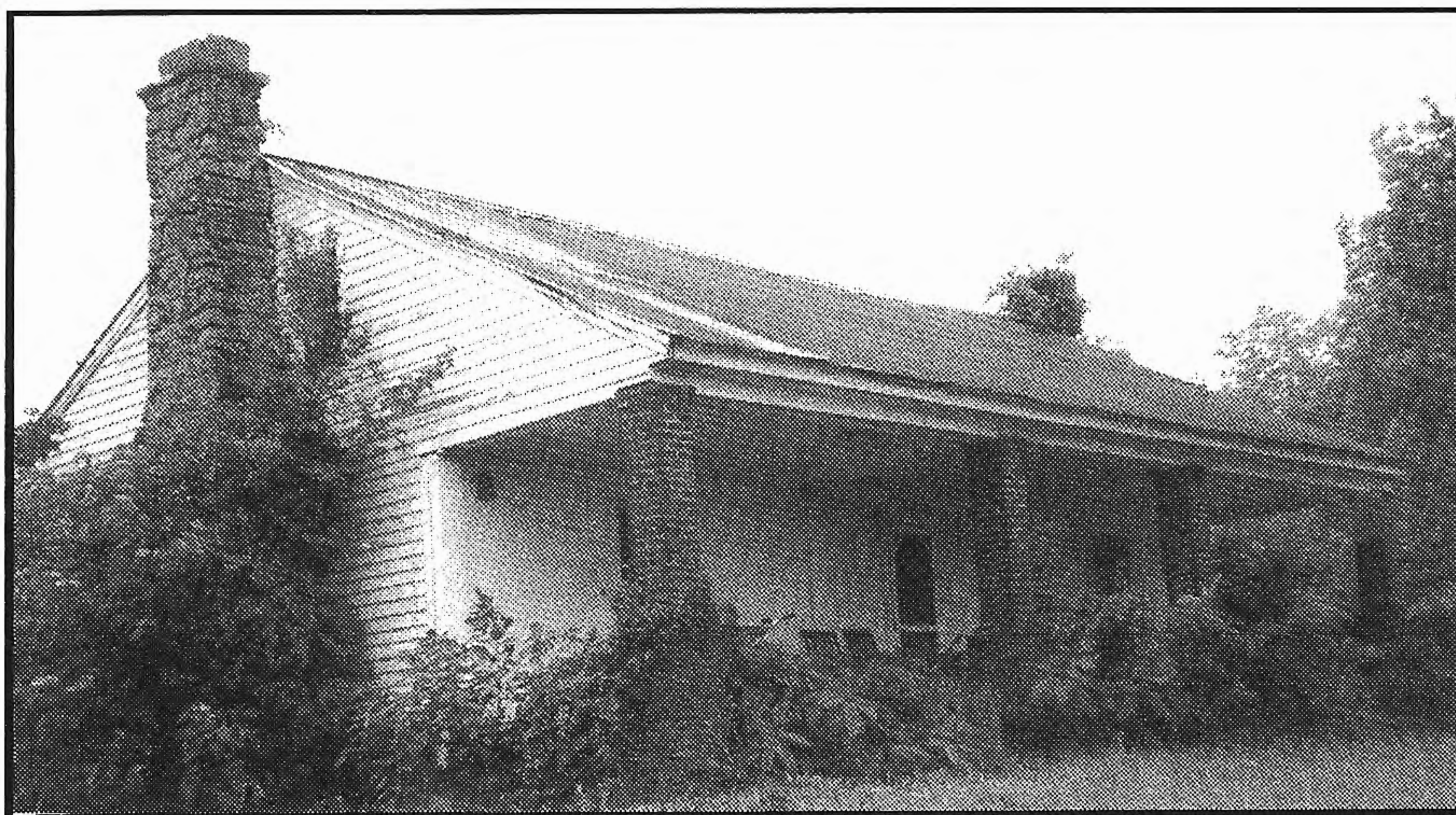
ages, 20, 14, and 18 respectively. Immediately Judson and Oliver went off to war. They joined Phillip's Legion and P. M. B. Young's fine brigade. Whitfield, father of the present owner of the Lowe place, was only fourteen. He enlisted later. From that moment on there was quite a little anxiety at the Lowe home.

Judson and Oliver followed the excitement of what war held for a Georgia brigade that made undying fame and glory in many a hard fought-battle. Letters from Oliver, written from time to time, proved that he was a fearless soldier and a good Confederate. Only once did he show any anxiety about what the future held. This was just before the Maryland campaign in 1862. He wrote from Rapadan Station,

Virginia, "Judson and I are reporting to "Stonewall" Jackson. We will be gone for three or four weeks. I hope we meet again." That was the only time he every showed any concern over what "would happen."

Oliver and Judson Lowe fought at Gettysburg, coming out "untouched", though "there must have been thousands of bullets that hit around us." He was more concerned in not having heard from home than he was about what the "bullets could do".

By this time the two Lowe boys were seasoned soldiers. They



Built in 1856, the Russell-Lowe home still stands today. Picture taken from Historic Bartow County, Circa 1828- 1866. Located 415 Cedar Creek Road, North-east of Cassville. According to deed records, Robert Russell was the original owner. He sold to William Lowe in 1869. This article makes it clear that William occupied the home during the war. William sold to his son, Whitfield in the fall of 1869, who sold to his son C.F. in June 1927, who sold to his son, the current owner, Franklin Terry Lowe in 1968.

"Russell-Lowe Home" Continued

were both happy to receive "new uniforms" from home. Oliver wrote, "the shoes fit fine". These shoes were made at the Lowe home, and the "forms" for those shoes are still at the old home.

In Oliver's letter, dated at Winchester, Virginia, July 23, 1863, he said that "Albert Gaines of Cassville was killed at Gettysburg; John Walters was captured, but that Thomas Drake got in safe." In another letter he asks for a watch and pistol. Says, "The girls of North Carolina are some of the prettiest I have ever seen." He was then at Danville, Virginia, on the North Carolina line.

In another letter written in April of 1864, Oliver Lowe goes into much detail about the treatment he is receiving from the ladies at Port Royal. Here he was detailed to fish for the brigade, and "am doing a good job." At this time Sherman was getting ready for his Atlanta Campaign. So we leave the Lowes in Virginia and see what will happen at the Lowe home in Bartow County.

After the battle at Resaca, Federals started to move south. On May 17, 1864, the battle was fought north of Adairsville. Early on the morning of the 18th, Johnston started to retreat toward Cassville. This brought Wheeler and his Confederate cavalry on the flanks, a part of his command being on the road that passed the Lowe home. In that command was one William Terry Shelton, father of the present Mrs. Lowe (now living at the Lowe home). He belonged to that portion of the 2nd Tennessee Cavalry that was a part of Wheeler's command. Two miles north of the Lowe home Federals hit the 2nd Tennessee, only to be thrown back in confusion. The Lowe home played a part in the "mystery" of the happenings around Cassville, a "mystery" that the best of the historians have not been able to solve. But, that is another story.

On the afternoon of May 18 and the morning of the 19th of May, Federals passed and re-passed the Lowe home. Wise Mr. Lowe hid the bacon and hams in the ground and the Federals failed to find that food. However, the rest of the

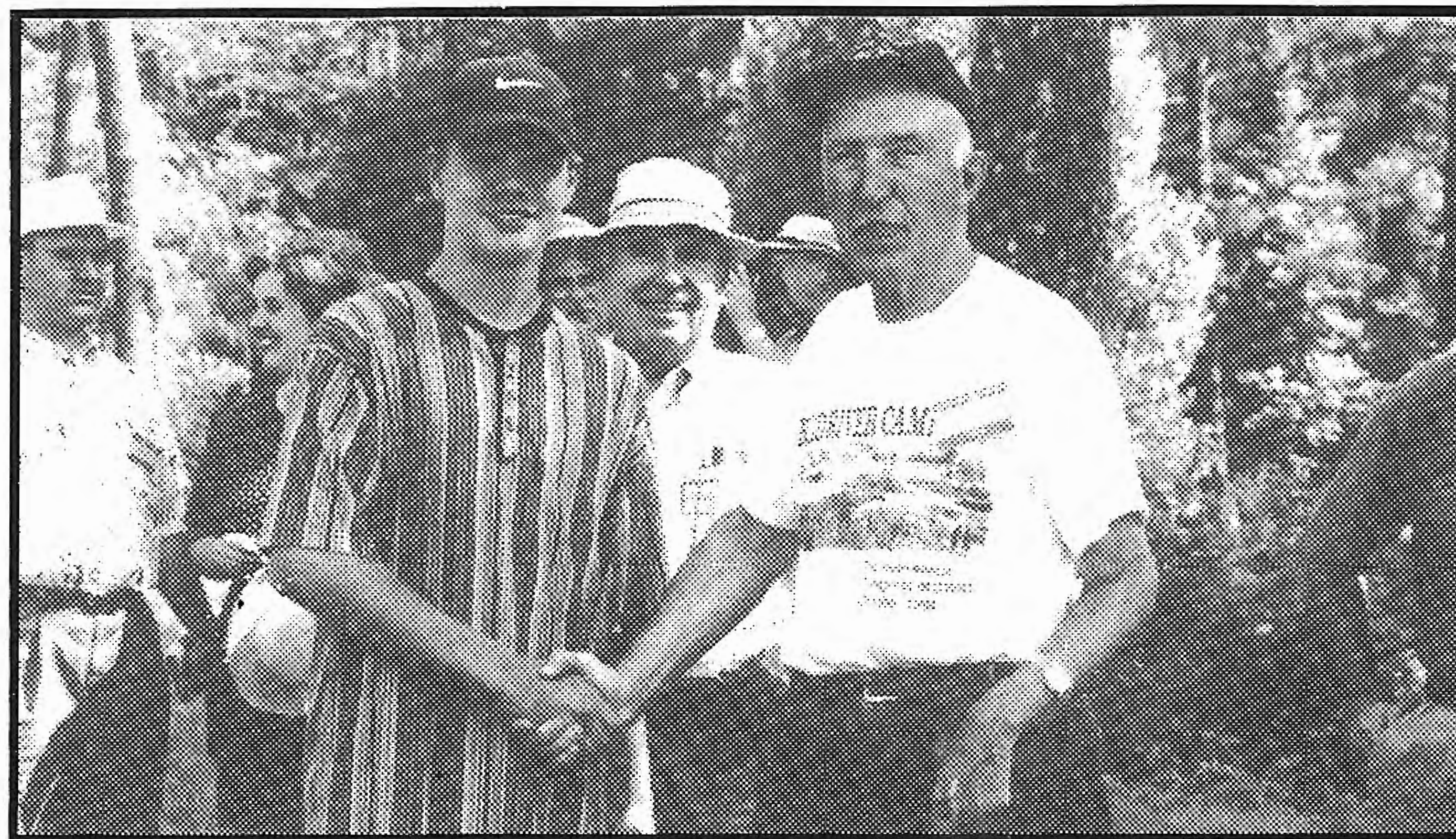
plantation was overrun by Federals but the house was spared. Federals camped in the yard for weeks to come. On the 24th, Wheeler came back to Cassville, there to capture a wagon train, and many supplies. Again, at a later date, William Shelton came back again, when he with other Confederates helped to destroy rails and other Federal equipment. The Lowe home was occupied by Federals from time to time until Sherman started his march to the sea. The home was spared when the Federals burned many homes around that vicinity for spite.

But, let's get back to the Lowes. Part of Phillip's Legion, with all three Lowes, was sent to South Carolina to help stop Sherman on his march north. Judson Lowe was taken prisoner and sent to New York. Oliver and Whitfield fought Sherman in South Carolina-were in Columbia when the Federals came into that city, but did not witness the sacking and burning of that fair city. Whitfield was surrendered with Young's Brigade.

Oliver W. Lowe fought at Averysboro, and in a fight near that point he was shot through the heart, and died near the famous Bentonville battlefield. An enlarged portion of the book, showing the bullet hole, is being published with this article. The book, Doctrine of the New Jerusalem-Concerning Faith, was from the press of the New Jerusalem Magazine, translated from the Latin of Emanuel Swedenborg, Boston, 1812 and is in itself an interesting book. Oliver Lowe died March 18, 1865 and probably sleeps in one of the many unknown graves in and around Bentonville.

Yes, the Lowe home is a place of historic interest. The three Lowe boys went off to war, willing to do or die for the Confederacy. Only Oliver gave his all for the "lost" but "just cause". Today, as in early 1861, all is serene, quiet and peaceful at the Lowe home. Why not run up - take a look at the old home and know more of your historic county?

BEARSS LEADS TOUR OF ALLATOONA PASS



Our own Clay Mooney (left) is shown shaking hands with Ed Bearss (right), Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service during a recent Civil War tour sponsored by the Park Service. You may have seen Mr. Bearss being interviewed frequently on the Smithsonian's Civil War series.

"COME HARVEST OUR HISTORY"

The Preservation Committee announces the next "Come Harvest Our History" tour of historic homes will be Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2, 1997. The purpose of the tour is to enhance the education and historical preservation awareness of citizens of Bartow County and surrounding areas. West Cherokee Avenue and upper Cassville Road will be the site of this walking tour. The committee is indeed grateful to West Cherokee Avenue residents Susan and Brad Barrett at 223, Emily and Hal Burgess at 310 and Cassville Road residents Tony and Candy Antonio at 15, Linda and Joe Jolly at 18, and Vandi and Harry White at 23 as well as Mary Siniard, Director of the Roselawn Museum, for opening their homes for this event.

Historic research on the houses and their occupants has already begun. Carolyn Parmenter is chairman of the deeds research activity with Kimberly Coombs and Chantal Parker assisting her. After their task is completed and the names of the previous owners/occupants are learned, there will be a need for persons to scan the early Bartow County newspapers for historically interesting events involving the homes and/or their occupants. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for that phase which can be done at one's own pleasure in the EVHS office using microfilm through 1956, and the bound newspapers of the last fifty years in Probate

Judge Scoggins' office in the Frank Moore Administration Building. Personal knowledge and early photographs of these residents and their occupants are also being sought. Because brochures and publicity items will be gleaned from these historical findings, hopefully, all the research phase will be completed by February 1, 1997. **ANYONE** who can participate in this interesting phase of the project, please let Tricia Simmons (386-2879) know.

Sally Rogers has again agreed to make the line drawings of the homes for the brochure, for which we are truly grateful! Five corporate sponsors are again being sought. Currently confirmed sponsors are: **HENDERSON & BOWEN, INC., PHOENIX AIR, and BARTOW PAVING COMPANY.** When you can, please thank these generous supporters of this educational and historic awareness project.

Tricia Simmons has accepted the general chairmanship of this historic home tour with the assurance that members of EVHS will support and participate in this endeavor. **PLEASE LET HER KNOW HOW YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE!!** Additional committees such as hostesses, publicity, traffic and parking, etc., will be organized in the Spring of 1997.

OLD ROWLAND SPRINGS RESORT

Editors Note: This is another of the fine articles written by the late Clyde Jolly, EVHS president in 1979. It was taken from the October 2, 1975 edition of The Herald-Tribune and titled "Aunt Beck Donahoo Recalls Old Hotel". Thanks to Jean Bishop Cochran for submitting this article.

Memories of the days when Bartow County had its own summer resort are still fresh in the minds of Mrs. Rebecca Wofford (Aunt Beck) Donahoo, who lives in the Rowland Springs community with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Earl (Louise) Leach.

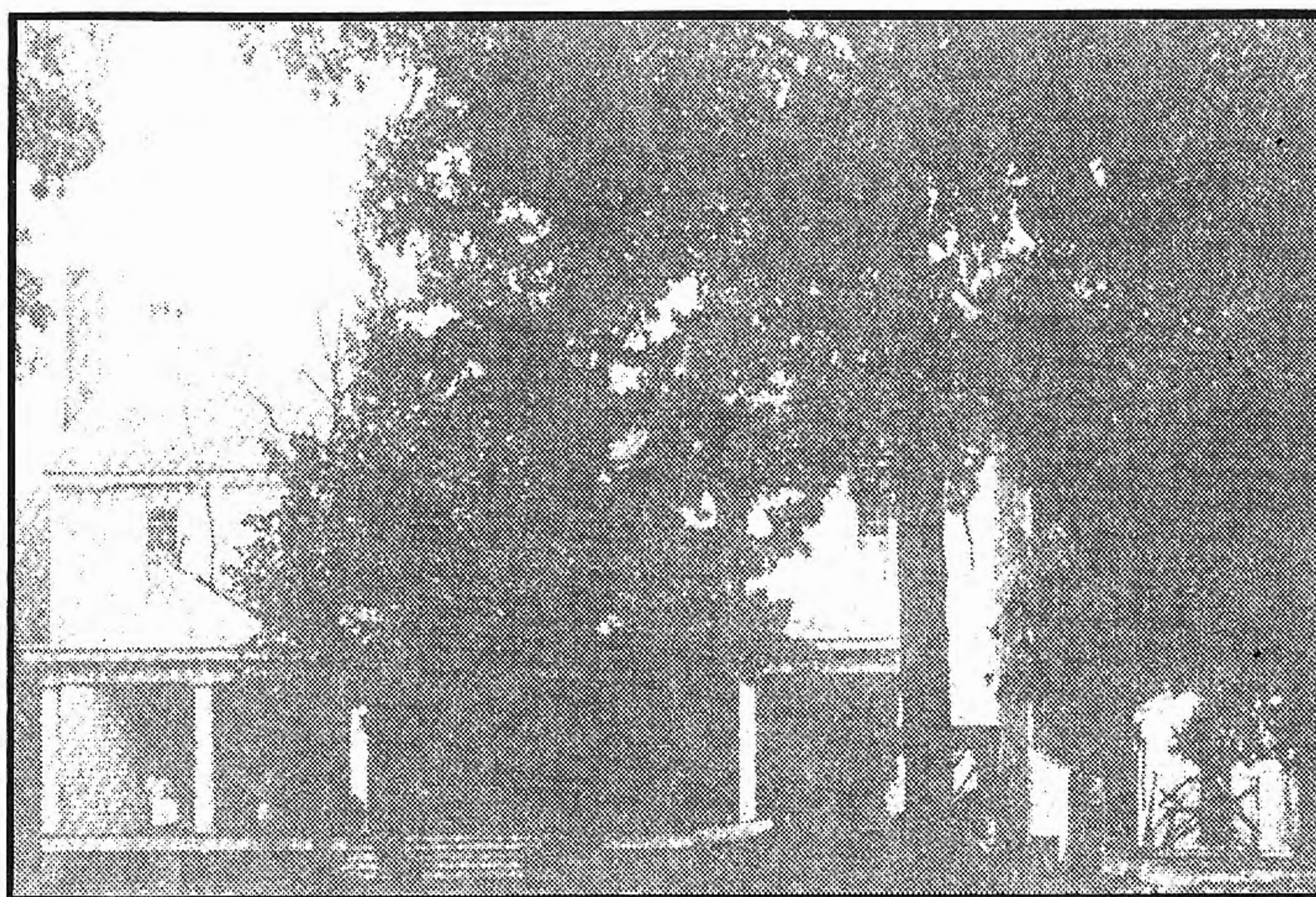
Aunt Beck, who was 98 years old last July 5, certainly should remember. It was she, together with her husband, the late Robert Donahoo, who revived the antebellum watering place at Rowland Springs in 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Donahoo advertised the merits of their resort and the healing waters

available there in the Atlanta papers, and entertained paying guests from all parts of Georgia and Florida up until 1925. That year they succumbed to the Florida boom and moved to Miami. They returned to Rowland Springs in 1938 but did not again operate a resort hotel in their big, three story home.

The imposing Donahoo house, undoubtedly part of a large complex of buildings, was destroyed by a tornado in 1948. Since then the Donahoo family has lived in a remodeled, enlarged tenant house near one of the springs.

Mrs. Donahoo, whose father and mother were James C. Wofford and Henrietta Satterfield Wofford, was born and raised in the Wofford home place at 102 North Douglas Street, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Parris and Miss Nora Wofford, a sister of Mrs. Donahoo. The house, built by Mrs. Donahoo's



Destroyed by a tornado in 1948, the Donahoo house was part of a large complex dating back to the 1840's.

Continued on following page

grandfather Wofford may well be one of the oldest, if not the oldest, house in Cartersville. Her father, James C. Wofford, was depot agent here for over 50 years.

"Aunt Beck" retains a keen mind and a zest for living as she nears the last milestone before reaching the century mark. She enjoys riding in the country and visiting her many kinfolk. And Mrs. Leach said, "Mama still likes to get out and rake leaves in the yard, and occasionally will haul them away in the wheelbarrow." She likes, too, to visit with Mrs. Sylvia Carter, an elderly neighbor whose grandparents were servants to Major John S. Rowland "before the war", and reminisce about old times.

"I have been told," said Mrs. Donahoo, "that in the old days the passengers on the regular stage coach run between Rome and Canton always stopped at Rowland Springs for dinner, or for lunch as some people call it now."

"There are 27 springs on the place, but we kept up only three of them," she said. "The branch from one of the springs fed into a natural swimming pool."

"We had good times back then. We had lots of Brumby rockers on the wide front porch which were always occupied; and occasionally our guests would have dances on the front porch to the accompaniment of a victrola. Also, at one time we had a dance pavilion near the swimming pool."

Mrs. Louise Donahoo Leach described the big house at Rowland Springs. "It had a great, wide hall more than 60 feet long. On the right hand side of the hall were big double parlors with sliding doors; on the left were two bedrooms, then the long dining room, and then the kitchen. The bedrooms were 24 by 24 feet and the dining room was three times as big as the bedrooms. The original kitchen was set off away from the rear of the house. We had four bedrooms upstairs, and we had three cottages, formerly tenant houses, that we rented out to summer guests."

"We used the big cellar for refrigeration and storage," added Mrs. Leach. "The story has been handed down to us that they used to dress and store 100 chickens per day in that cellar."

"We fed the guests family style," said Mrs. Donahoo, "Plenty of garden vegetables, hot biscuits and fried chicken."

"People came mainly to drink the mineral waters for their health. Dr. McCallie, the state geologist, analyzed the water and found many minerals in it."

A copy of Dr. S. W. McCallie's book "Mineral Springs of Georgia" is on file in the Cartersville's Tri-County Library. In it he listed chlorine, sulfur, soda, potash, lime, magnesia, alumina, iron and a phosphorus as being present in the two largest springs at Rowland Springs.

Mrs. Donahoo said that her husband, Robert, and J. W. L. Brown and a Mr. Sparks bottled and sold Rowland Springs water in years past. And one small, walled-up spring near the present Donahoo residence shows mineral discoloration on the surrounding rocks.

In answer to a question Mrs. Leach said, "The only running water we had in the hotel was what Anne (her deceased sister) and I ran in buckets from the spring to the house." Later, water works were installed, gravity fed from Holly Springs about 1 1/2 miles to the northeast.

Mrs. Leach vividly recalls one couple who were guests at the resort. "One summer we rented a cabin to a Mr. Herzog from Atlanta. He asked us if we could consider entertaining a pair of honeymooning friends of his. The young man turned out to be Mr. Adolphe, the well-known hairdresser of Atlanta, and his bride was a Swiss girl who spoke little English. I shall always remember them coming down the stairs each morning, and her calling out cheerfully "Goot Morning."

For years after the Donahoos gave up the resort business, they generously permitted picnickers to use the springs area. But, with the advent of World War II, an interest in picnicking declined and the cost of maintaining the springs became too burdensome. Today the region is still beautiful, but overgrown with a tangle of undergrowth.

Rowland Springs got its name from Major John S. Rowland, who came to Cass County from Rutherford County, NC in 1839. His home place called "Etowah Valley" was the property on Rockmart Road later known as the Leake place. In 1843 he acquired 2000 acres six miles east of Cartersville and developed it into a summer resort. He was also general superintendent for the state-owned Western and Atlantic Railroad.

Mr. McCallie, in his book Mineral Springs of Georgia said, "White, in his Statistics of Georgia in 1849 wrote that the Rowland Springs are too well-known to need a particular description. They are becoming every season the center of fashion. Multitudes from every part of the state resort here to partake of the excellent water, as well as the liberal fare of the proprietor. The hotel accommodated 600. It boasted of having had four state governors as its guests on one occasion. At one time Governor and Mrs. Joseph E. Brown were frequent guests".

One can well understand why Governor Brown might have visited Rowland Springs so often. After all, Major Rowland held a key position with the state-owned railroad, and certainly it would have not been unnatural if he had buttered up "the big boss" a little bit. Also, one can believe more readily the story handed down to the Donahoo family that an excursion train once ran from New York City to Cartersville bringing a train-load of passengers eager to "take the waters" here when he considers the prestigious job Major Rowland held.

But it is a little bit exasperating that Author White, in his Statistics in Georgia, thought Rowland springs "too well-known to need a particular description". It would be great if we could see a picture of the huge hotel; if we could read the bill-of-fare offered the stage coach travelers; if we could see faded tintypes or even drawings of the fashionable ladies in their hoopskirts and the gentlemen in their tight trousers and tall hats as they promenaded near the springs.

Perhaps, deep in musty trunks somewhere, or on yellowed pages on library shelves, waiting to be resurrected, there is the complete story of antebellum Rowland Springs. Perhaps, one day we can print another chapter.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JUNE 23, 1996

In the historic atmosphere of Barnsley Gardens on a warm Sunday evening the Etowah Valley Historical Society (EVHS) membership meeting was held June 23, 1996. The delicious dinner was graciously served by the staff of the Barnsley Gardens Restaurant where the meeting was also held. Members were invited to tour the gardens afterwards. Joe Head, vice president, welcomed members and guests and thanked the hosts for the evening.

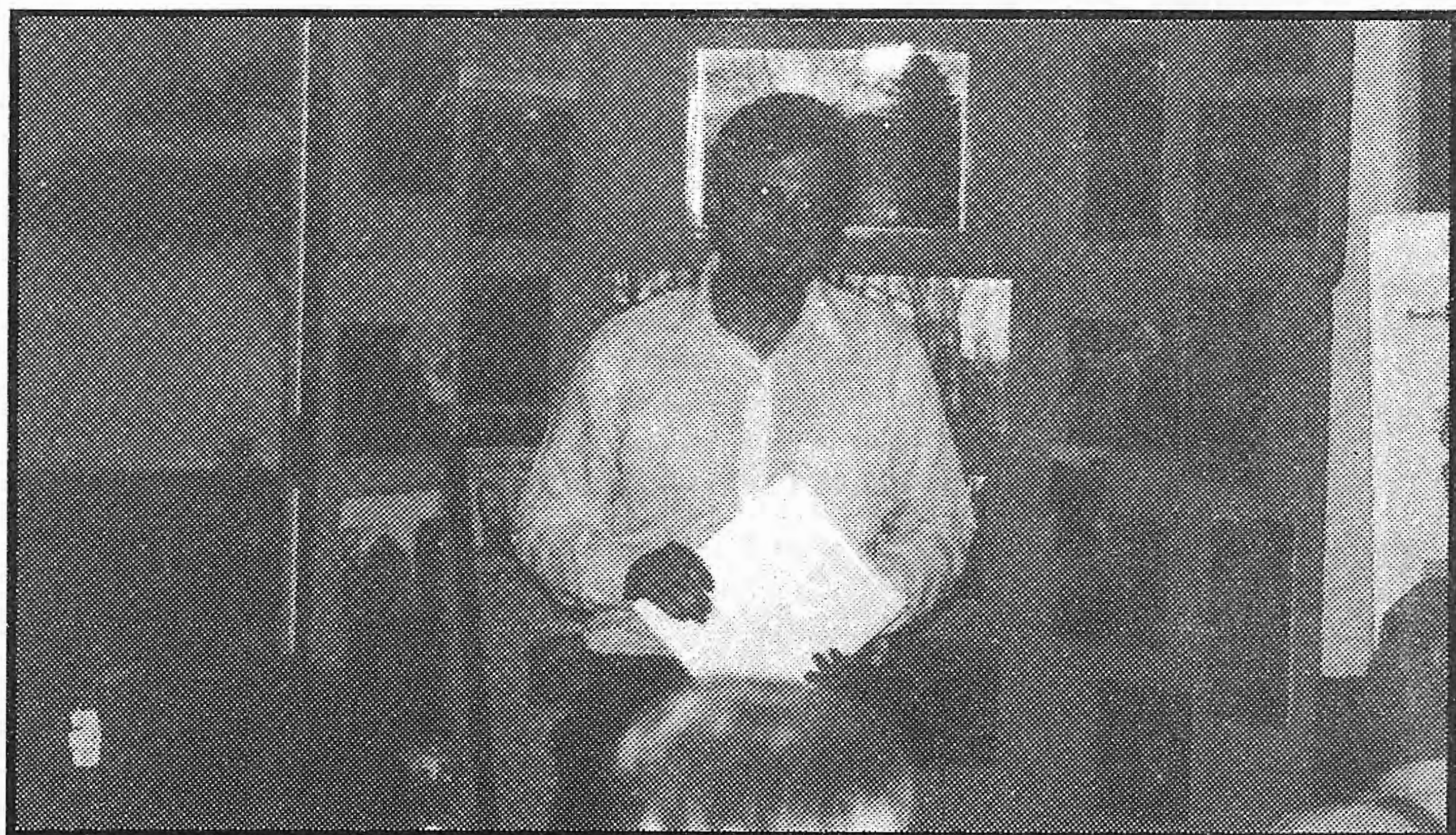
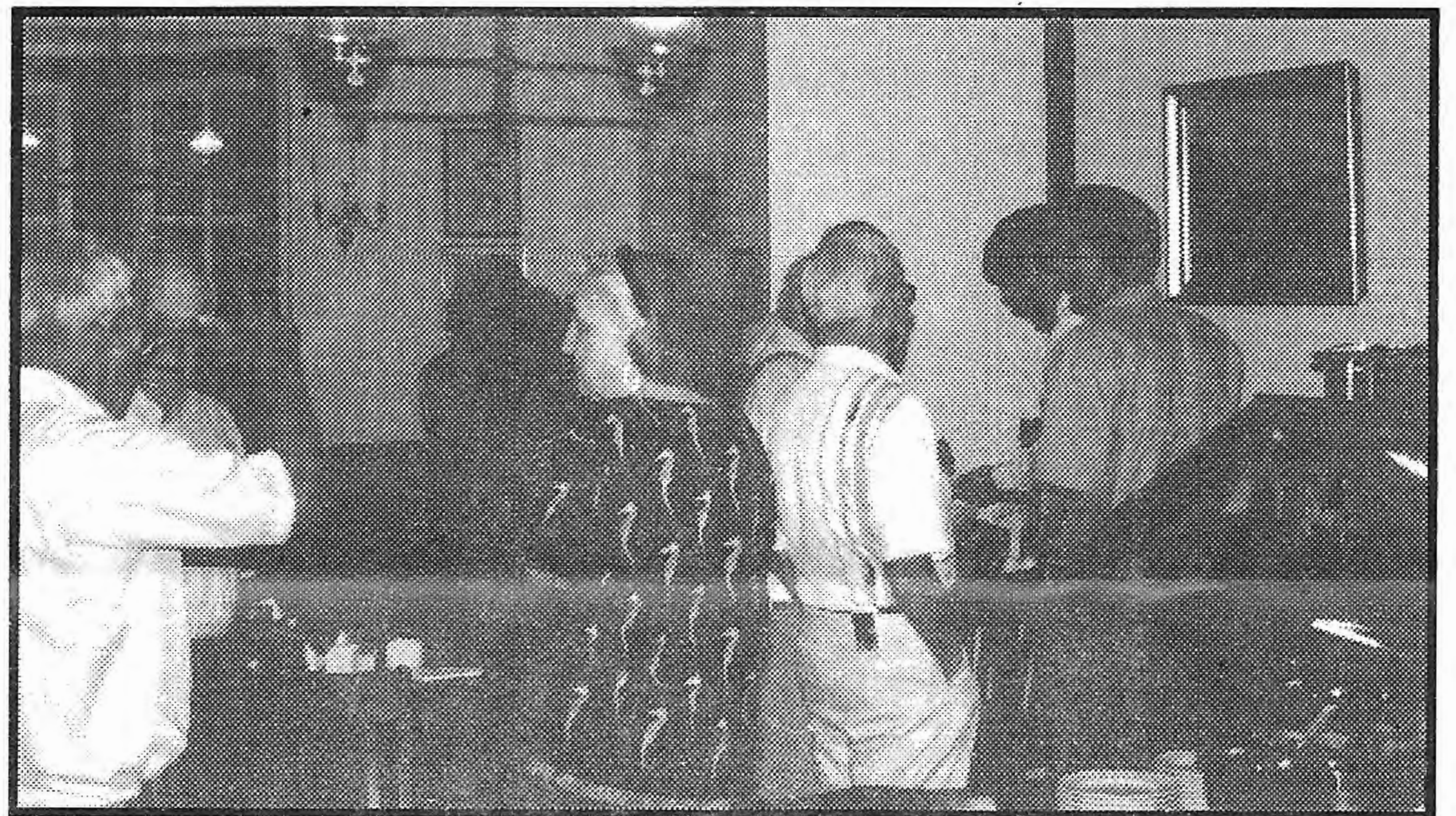
Guy Parmenter announced a newsletter was in the mail and that another will be mailed in two or three weeks. He also informed the group that the cleanup on the eastern side of Allatoona Pass is almost completed. Signs are to be put in place after which the opening will be announced. He thanked all those who had worked on the project for the past two years. In addition, a grant of \$20,000 has been accepted from the American Battlefield Protection Program and will be used to fund a preservation plan for the Allatoona Battlefield.

Dianne Tate of the Preservation Committee reported on the work in progress at the 1903 historic courthouse. Volunteers for the EVHS office were acknowledged for opening the office from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

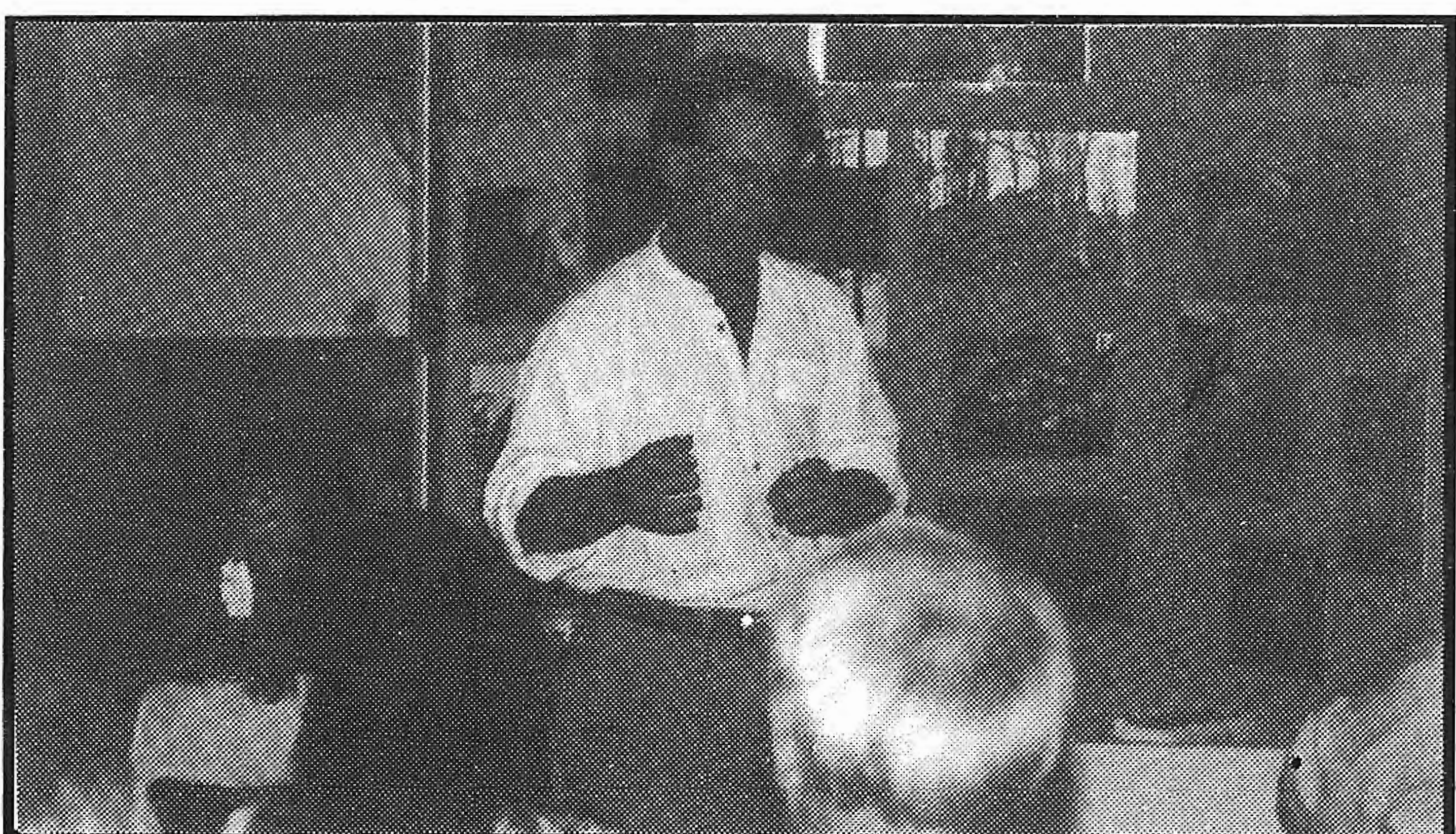
Steve Wheaton, horticulturist of Barnsley Gardens, told



Restaurant at Barnsley Gardens



Dr. David Parker



Steve Wheaton

of the future plans for the gardens. Extensive research leads to the belief that the gardens were of the Andrew Jackson Downing style. With this in mind, historic renovation is planned for thirty acres of the gardens and the ruins are to be preserved. Future development will include one to three golf courses and a residential area on the remaining grounds. Joe Head introduced the speaker for the evening, David Parker, Ph.D., a faculty member at Kennesaw State University and EVHS member. He spoke on Charles Henry Smith, alias Bill Arp, a local humorist and newspaper columnist from 1861 to 1903.

While needing a thirty page paper for a graduate research seminar some years back, David chose to write on Southern humor. His professor thought the topic too large and suggested he choose one humorist on which to write. Acting on that advice, David chose Charles Henry Smith. The seminar paper grew into a master's thesis, a doctoral dissertation, and finally, a book titled, Alias Bill Arp-Charles Henry Smith and the South's "Goodly Heritage". Mr. Smith was the grandfather of the late Mrs. Marilu Monfort.

Upon completion of the program, which was delivered in a humorous fashion, Dr. Parker was presented with a copy of A History of Old Cassville written by Joseph B. Mahan, Jr. and published by the author and EVHS.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 10, 1996

On August 10 at 6:30 p.m. dinner was served on the lawn of "Trimbletoe", the home of Etowah Valley Historical Society members Alex and Nancy Smith on Cass Pine Log Road, and the setting of the EVHS membership meeting. DiAnne Monroe, EVHS president, welcomed members and guests and thanked the Smiths for having the meeting at their home.

Tricia Simmons, chairperson, announced that November 1 and 2, 1997 are the dates for the next "Come Harvest Our History" tour of historic homes which is sponsored by the Preservation Committee of the EVHS. Next year's tour will include five homes on West Cherokee Avenue and upper Cassville Road as well as Roselawn Museum. She said help is needed to document the histories of these homes.

Ms. Monroe encouraged everyone to visit the EVHS office and research facility in the historic 1903 courthouse. Bartow County Confederate Pension records have been newly acquired on microfilm and are the only ones available in the county. Research hours are from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays. The telephone number is (770)606-8862 for additional information.

Mr. Smith spoke in a gracious manner of the history of "Trimbletoe". The land was part of the 1833 land lottery. The pre-Civil War house was first called "Forest Lodge" and was owned by the Rev. Churchill A. Crowell, Methodist minister and first president of the Female Academy at Cassville. The property, after having had several other owners, was acquired in 1969 by Alex's parents, Dr. and Mrs. William Vaughn Smith. After its restoration, its name was changed to "Trimbletoe". Today Mr. and Mrs. Smith reside in the beautifully restored and furnished home.

Joe Head, EVHS vice-president, introduced Dr. Ed Bostick, professor of biology at Kennesaw State University and a member of the EVHS. Dr. Bostick presented the interesting and humorous program "Kudzu and the South". Kudzu is known as the creeping vine of the South and is of the bean family. It is a native of Asia and was first intro-

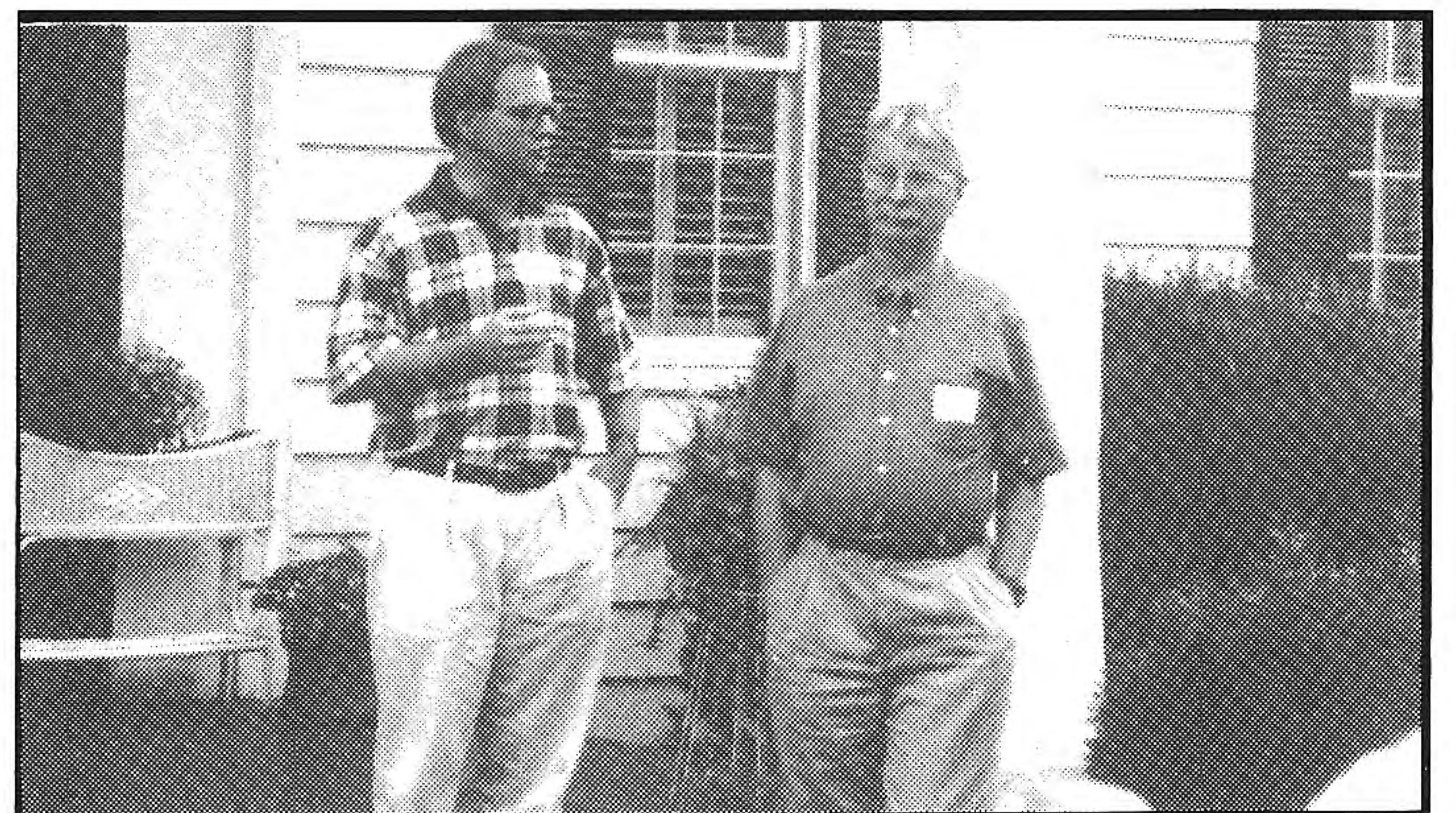


(L-R): Alex Smith, DiAnne Monroe, Nancy Smith

duced by the Japanese during the 1876 U.S.A. Centennial in Philadelphia. The Japanese promoted it as a potted plant on that occasion and again in 1894 at the World's Fair in New Orleans. It was first marketed as a porch vine and later as a means to stop eroding soils, especially by roadways. Kudzu has been known to grow up to 18 inches in one day! There are even festivals named for the Kudzu. It has many uses, but mostly its vine is utilized for wreath and basket crafts.

After the program, Guy Parmenter brought the membership up to date on the Allatoona Pass Project, which has been in progress for two years. He then thanked the volunteers and said more workers are needed.

After the meeting was adjourned, everyone enjoyed touring the home and looking at the scrapbook of the home's restoration.



(L-R): Joe Head, Dr. Ed Bostick



Originally "Forest Lodge", now "Trimbletoe"

SOCIETY DUES PAYABLE OCTOBER 1

Dues notices have been mailed for the 1996/1997 EVHS year. We do hope that you will continue your membership with the Society.

October 1 happens to be the beginning of our fiscal year and all dues are payable then, regardless of when you joined. However, we do make one exception. Any new member joining June 1, 1996 or later will not be billed until October 1 of 1997.

Questions arise about why we do not prorate dues for new members or bill on the annual anniversary date of when a member joins. These options have been debated; however, the answer is that we are an all volunteer organization. No paid staff member exists. For this reason, we want to keep the dues billing process as simple as possible. When you receive your notices, please send your check as soon as possible.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
YOUR SOCIETY!

BACK TO SCHOOL

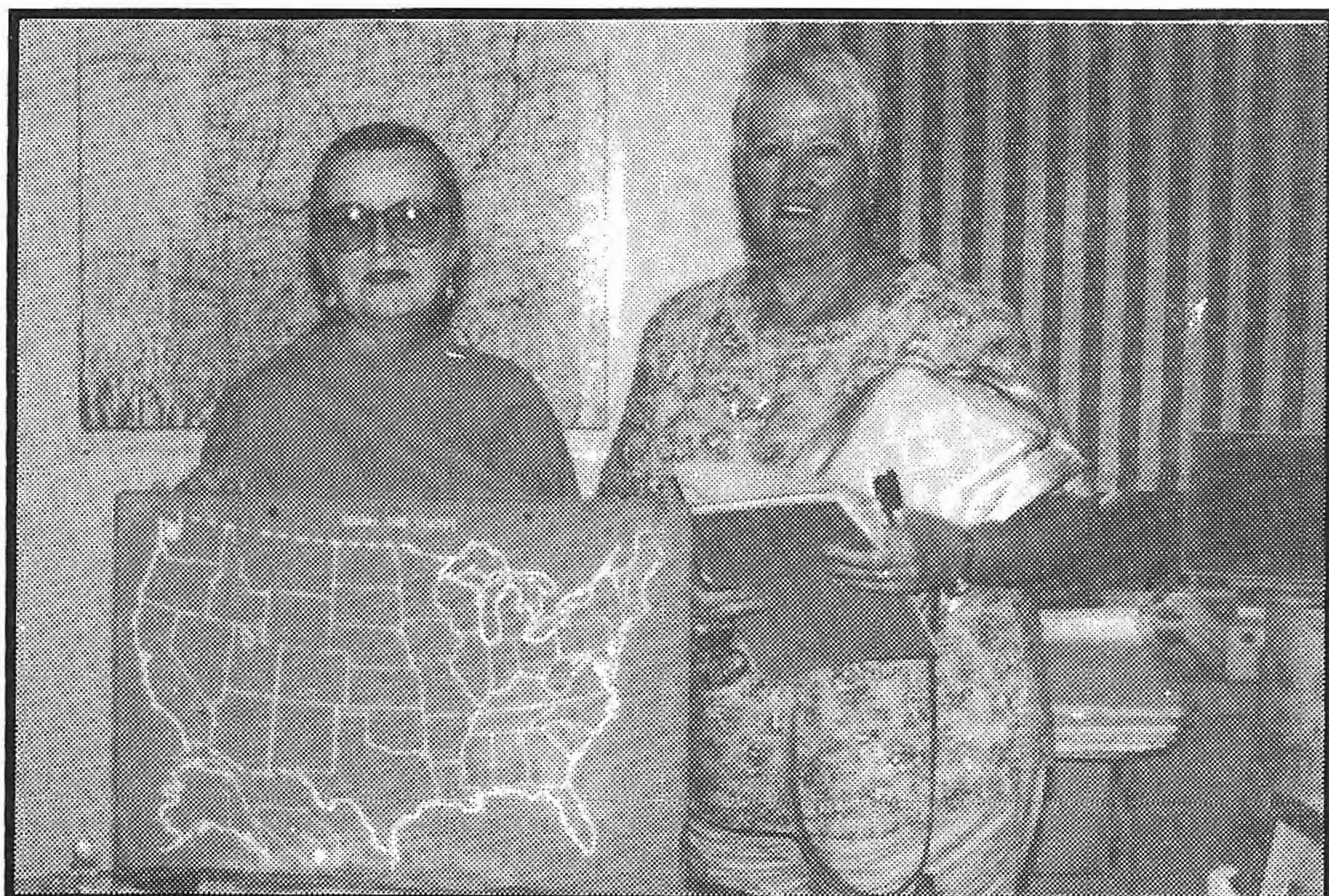


Emily Champion

A training seminar for our office volunteers was held on Saturday, June 8th and 15th. It was a great opportunity for those volunteers attending to expand their knowledge of all the EVHS office has to offer. Our thanks to President DiAnne Monroe for conducting these sessions.



(L-R): Frank Entwisle, DiAnne Monroe, Lizette Entwisle, and Jean Cochran

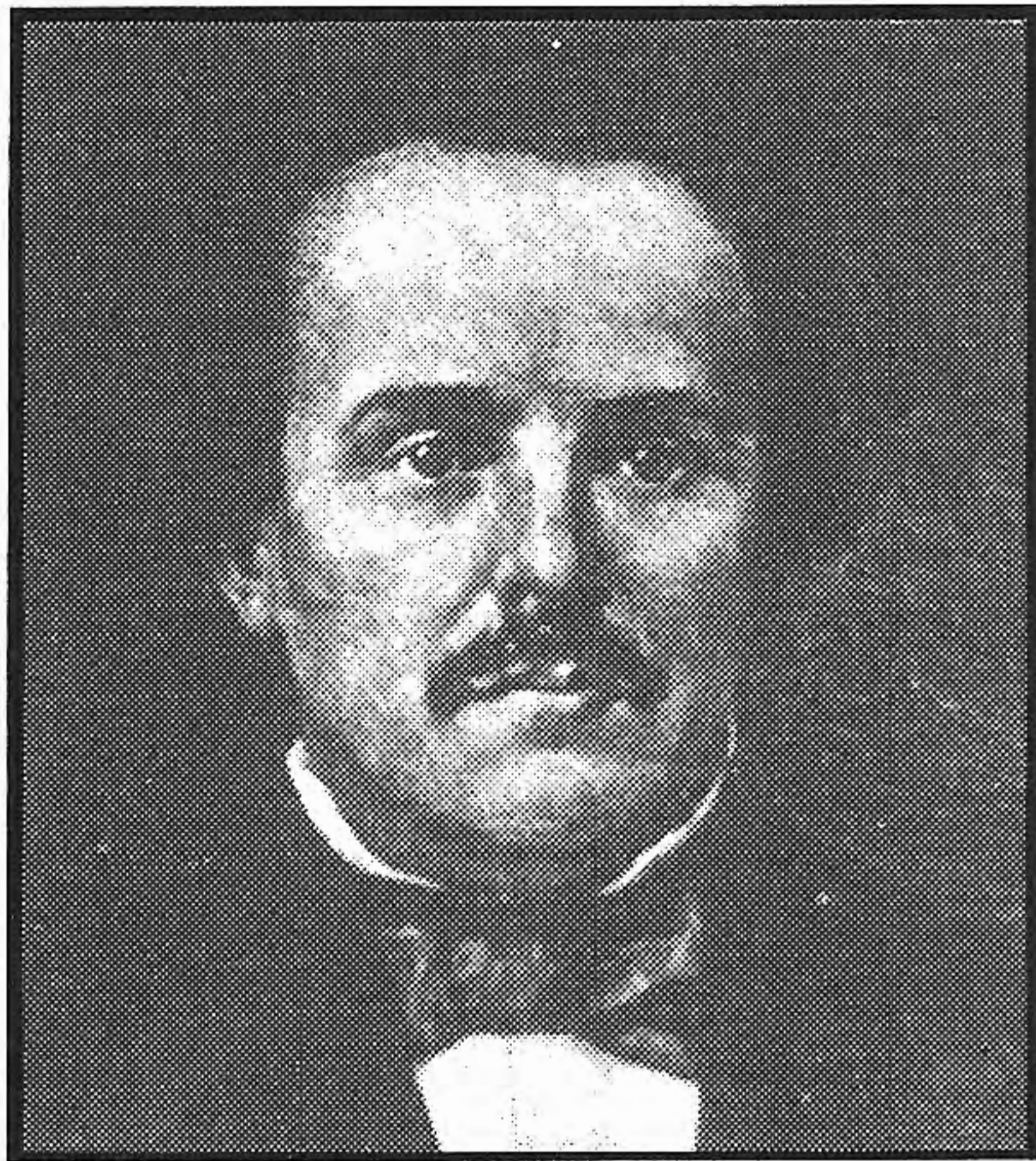


(L-R): DiAnne Monroe & Tricia Simmons



Lizette Entwisle

OCTOBER MEETING...JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



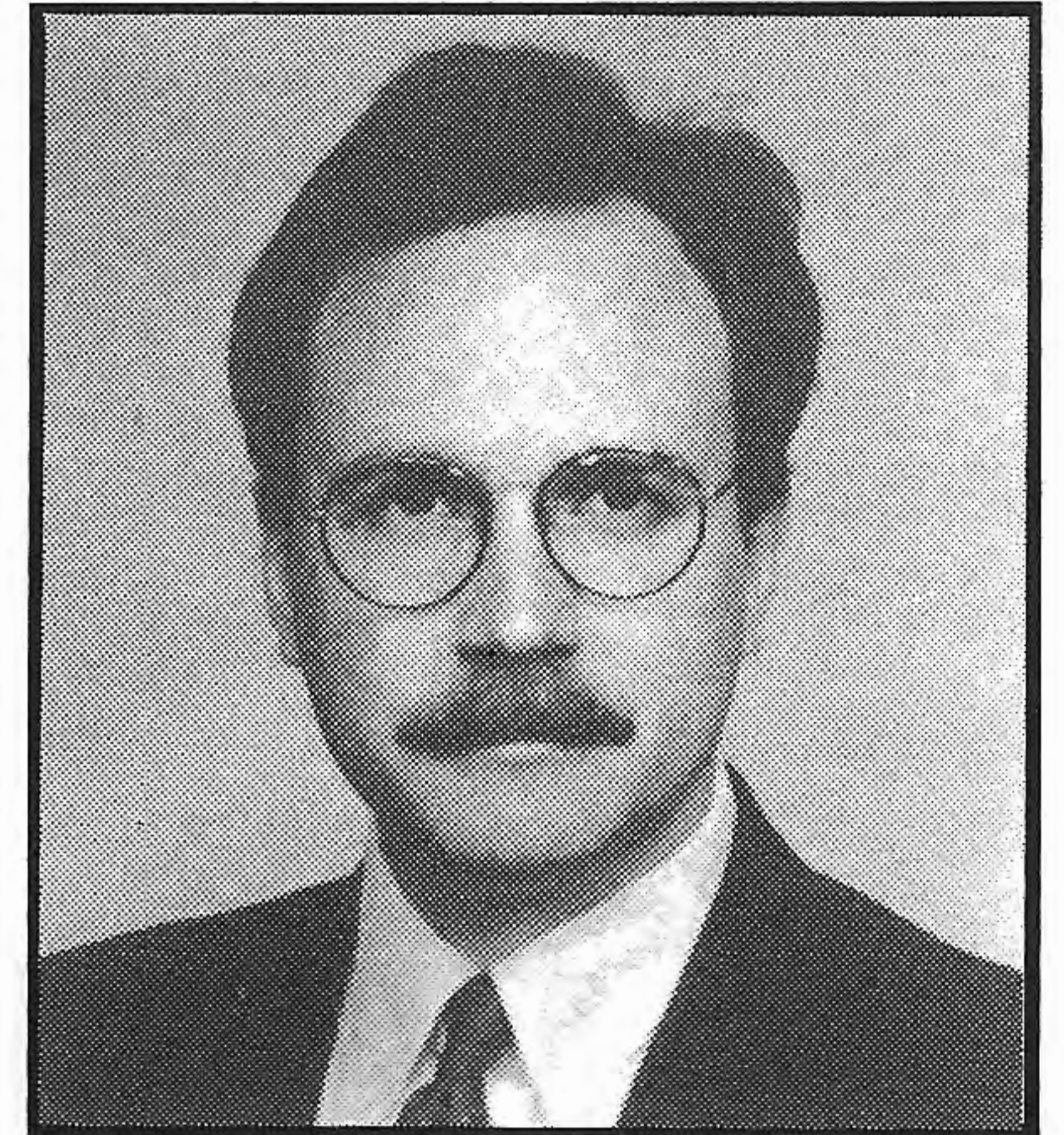
Francis Bartow, Picture taken from the History of Bartow County, Georgia

*"They have killed me, boys,"
he cried.*

*The last words of Francis Bartow while lying mortally
wounded on the Manassas Battlefield.*

Come hear W. Todd Groce, Executive Director of the Georgia Historical Society, talk about the life of Francis Bartow at our Annual Meeting to be held 6:00 p.m. Saturday, October 19th at the historic 1859 Stilesboro Academy. Dr. Groce moved to his current position in Savannah from Knoxville, Tennessee, where he served as executive director of the East Tennessee Historical Society. He is a native of Portsmouth, Virginia. Dr.

Groce received his undergraduate degree in history at the University of Memphis and completed his master's and doctoral degrees in southern history at the University of Tennessee. He is a contributor of book reviews and essays to a number of scholarly works and journals. Look for your invitation in the mail.



Dr. Todd Groce

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INSIDE:

- Russell-Lowe Home
- Old Rowland Springs Resort
- and much more!